

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: CALABRO EXPELLED FROM PERONIST PARTY

1. BA GOVERNOR CALABRO WAS FORMALLY EXPELLED FROM JUSTICIALIST PARTY ON NOVEMBER 7 WHEN THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL RATIFIED ITS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL'S FINDING THAT CALABRO'S STATEMENTS TO FOREIGN PRESS "OBSTRUCTED THE ARGENTINE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES ...AND REVEALED AN INTENT TO DENY THE IDEOLOGICAL BASE OF PERONIST MOVEMENT". ACCORDING TO PARTY SECGEN MANUEL TORRES, DECISION ON EXPULSION WAS UNANIMOUS, ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT PERON WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY CONSULTED ON THE MATTER "BECAUSE OF HER ILLNESS".

2. EXPULSION WAS STRONGLY ATTACKED BY CALABRO SUPPORTERS IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE WHO HAVE PROGRAMMED A SOLIDARITY RALLY FOR CALABRO IN LA PLATA FOR NOVEMBER 12. ADDITIONALLY, THE PRESS REPORTS THAT MANY PROMINENT PERONISTS WHO SUPPORT CALABRO INTEND TO RELEASE DOCUMENT NOVEMBER 11 STRONGLY ATTACKING DECISION AND RATIFYING THEIR IDENTIFICATION WITH CALABRO'S STATEMENTS. REGARDING THOSE WHO SUPPORT CALABRO, FERDINANDO PEDRINI - EX-FREJULI BLOC LEADER IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES - TOLD PRESS THAT HENCEFORTH OTHER PERONISTS WHO PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED WITH CALABRO'S STATEMENTS WOULD ALSO BE EXPELLED FROM PARTY.

3. IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH LABATT, A CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
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COMMENTED THAT THE OFFICIAL PERONIST PARTY WAS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL

PURPOSES, DEAD. HE OBSERVED THAT CALABRO AND THE OTHERS WERE NOW DEFINING THEIR POSITIONS WITH A VIEW TOWARDS THE 1977 ELECTIONS. HE FELT THAT ALTHOUGH CALABRO HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY AND ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT BEING SUCCESSFUL IN HIS CHALLENGE TO LORENZO MIGUEL IN THE METAL WORKERS UNION (UOM), CALABRO STILL WAS A MAN TO BE RECKONED WITH. HIS CONTROL OF BA PROVINCE WILL ENABLE HIM TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN HIS POLITICAL BASE DURING THE NEXT YEAR.

4. COMMENT. THE DECISION SIGNIFIES THAT CALABRO HAS NOW PASSED FROM BATTLING WITHIN THE PARTY ORGANIZATION TO THE LEGITIMATE OPPOSITION. IF PEDRINI'S THREAT IS CARRIED OUT, A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER IMPORTANT PERONISTS WILL ALSO BE LEAVING THE PARTY. IN SUCH AN EVENT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE PERONIST PARTY WOULD BE ABLE TO MUSTER A MAJORITY IN EITHER THE SENATE OR THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. IN VIEW OF THE LEGISLATURE'S INVESTIGATION INTO CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST PRESIDENT PERON AND MANY OF HER COLLABORATORS AND THE POTENTIAL IMPEACHMENT ACTION AGAINST HER, THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A MOVE ARE ALL TOO CLEAR. HOWEVER, EVEN WITHOUT FURTHER EXPULSIONS THE OFFICIAL PERONIST PARTY IS SO BADLY SPLINTERED THAT PARTY DISCIPLINE IS PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT. LIKE THE PRESIDENT HERSELF, THE PARTY REIGNS, BUT DOES NOT RULE.
HILL

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